

Saving students one click at a time

A student from one of seven area high schools will win a new car

By Cynthia Walker
CORRESPONDENT

After 13 successful years in northern Illinois high schools, Operation Click will be working with seven high schools in southeastern Wisconsin to encourage and motivate students to drive safe. The reward for successful completion of the Operation Click program offers great motivation as a new car will be awarded to one student.

Students will qualify by practicing safe driving habits, such as wearing a seatbelt, not consuming alcohol and not texting or talking on a cell phone while driving.

Along the way, students will also have the opportunity to receive free music downloads and awards for their safe driving habits.

Students who wish to participate in the program must have their driver's license by April, and are required to sign a contract that they will follow a list of safe driving rules throughout

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Sean McGrath,
Operation Click president

the school year.

At the end of the school year, students who abide by the rules of the contract will be eligible to win a new car, donated by Kunes Country Auto Group.

“This is a fantastic program for the kids,” A.J. Justus, sales consultant for Kunes said. “We at Kunes Country Auto feel honored to be a part of the first Wisconsin-based Operation Click driver safety program.”

AAA is the leading sponsor for the program and has pledged \$2,000 to each participating high school to be used to

promote the safety program.

“The Operation Click program is successful because it is peer-operated,” Roy R. Hinz, Community Outreach Traffic Safety Specialist of AAA, said.

Right from the start, students on the Operation Click committee at each high school will work together to plan and budget events geared toward promoting awareness and participation in the program. Their first assignment is to develop a logo that the Click staff uses on banners and signs.

These student-led commit-

tees will have the opportunity to request the use of equipment loaned out by Operation Click and AAA. Click offers golf carts that include Fatal Vision goggles and Fatal Reaction headgear. While driving the carts, students experience various simulated driving distractions.

AAA loans out their portable driving simulators for presentations and events. Students who participate will be challenged with various simulated driving scenarios from different weather conditions to distractions, avoiding a head-on collision, responding to emergencies, dealing with intersections and drunken driving.

Launching T-shirts, passing out candy bars and free music downloads are a few of the other options students will have to promote the program. The Walworth County Sheriff's department has offered to supervise the T-shirt launching machine, and assist with the end-of-the-year driving records search.

“In the past five years there have been no driving fatalities in an Operation Click School,” Sean McGrath, president of

Operation Click said.

“This is a positive, peer-driven program that works. We are attempting to change driving behaviors through incentives,” he added.

One of the incentives involves students receiving an award for creating a driving safety video posted on YouTube. Other incentives include: a Student of the Month will be chosen to receive “privileged” parking spaces throughout the school year, and a “Student of the Year” will be awarded, chosen by the board. More than one student may receive these awards. One of the seven high schools will also receive a School of the Year Award.

This program will come to a close at an end-of-the-school year banquet where all of the awards will be presented and one deserving student will choose the key that starts the car – a huge incentive to get kids driving safely, one “click” at a time.

For more information contact Nicholas Pyan: (815) 301-7663 or npyan@comcast.net; Sean McGrath: (815) 482-8885 or smcgrath@operationclick.com

About Operation Click

What: “Operation Click” sponsored by AAA and Kunes Country Auto Group

Where: Seven area high schools; Lake Geneva, Walworth Big Foot, Elkhorn, East Troy, Whitewater, Delavan/Darien, Burlington Catholic Central

When: 2011-12 School year

For more information: Contact Nicholas Pyan at (815) 301-7663 or email at npyan@comcast.net; or Sean McGrath at (815) 482-8885 or email at smcgrath@operationclick.org; or visit www.operationclick.com

org or visit www.operationclick.com. Area businesses that wish to donate tax-deductible prizes or contribute in some way are also asked to contact Pyan or McGrath.



PHOTO SUBMITTED East Troy Times

Army Lake Camp's 14-acre corn maze in East Troy (as seen from a helicopter window) will remain open through Oct. 29.

Corn maze returns through Halloween

Army Lake Camp is kicking off the fall season its annual corn maze, which will be open through Oct. 29.

The maze is open Fridays from 5 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The maze is available to groups by reservation Monday through Friday.

Area residents are also invited to explore the Army Lake Camp courtyard, which includes

concessions, bounce houses, corn cannons, paintball target shooting, archery, hay rides, barrel train rides, and carnival games. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12 and free for children younger than 4.

The camp is located at N8797 Army Lake Road, East Troy.

For more information, call (262) 642-6410 or visit www.armylakecamp.org.

Upcoming area happenings

St. John's to hold silent auction

St. John's Lutheran Church, 410 Highway NN west, Mukwonago, will hold a silent auction on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 4:30-7 p.m.

Auction items include autographed Green Bay Packers footballs, Harley-Davidson items, vacation getaways, tools, tickets to sports games and more.

The event will also feature food, music and a live auction. For more information, call (262) 363-4999.

Fall festival full of activities

Horse Power Healing Center, Inc., located at Jericho Creek Farms, S101 W34628 Highway LO, Eagle, will hold a fall festival on Saturday, Oct. 15 from noon-4 p.m.

Activities include games, face painting, race radio controlled trucks, therapeutic

riding demonstrations, a silent auction and more. A Halloween costume contest will be held for all ages with prizes for the most humorous, creative, movie/theme, scary and adorable.

Admission is a \$5 donation and children 12 and younger enter free.

Funds raised will support the Equine-assisted therapeutic riding program. For more information, call (262) 594-3667 or visit www.jerichocreekfarms.com.

Fall book sale set for Saturday

Aram Public Library, 404 E. Walworth Ave. in Delavan will hold a fall book sale on Saturday, Oct. 15 from noon-3 p.m.

Following the book sale from 3:15-4:30 p.m., the Friends Group will host its members-only annual meeting and Fall Food Tasting

with samples from Brick Street Market, Apple Barn, Starbucks, Beil's Bakery and more. New memberships and annual renewals are \$5 at the door.

For more information, call (262) 728-3111.

East Troy Lioness spaghetti dinner draws near

East Troy Lioness Club will hold its annual all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, Oct. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. at East Troy High School, 3128 Graydon Ave.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$5.50 for children 4-12 and free for those younger than 4.

All proceeds fund the annual East Troy Lioness Club scholarship awarded to an East Troy High School senior. For more information, call Karen at (262) 363-5571.

Make your mark on this year's Community Guide

East Troy area residents are invited to enter the fourth annual Community Guide Cover Photo Contest.

Your photo could be selected for the cover of the East Troy Times 2012 Community Guide.

The overall best of the photos will appear on the cover of the community

guide and the top picks will be inside the guide.

The entry deadline is Monday, Oct. 17 at noon.

Entrants can submit up to three amateur, original photos. Photos should portray the essence of the East Troy area and could be of East Troy area landmarks, events/

activities or life in or around East Troy.

Digital entries should be sent by email to Editor@EastTroyTimes.net, mailed East Troy Times, P.O. Box 274, East Troy WI 53120 or dropped off on a CD to 2888 Main St., East Troy.

For more information, call (262) 642-7837.

Village officials set snow removal guidelines

By Haley Tanis
CORRESPONDENT

In an effort to prepare for snowstorms on par with last winter's blasts, the East Troy Village Board approved new plowing and salting guidelines Monday night.

The plan, a more extensive document than the village has seen in previous years, was created to communicate to the public the objectives, procedures and desired outcomes of snow and ice control efforts, according to Mike Miller, director of Public Works.

It also lays out in detail the process DPW employees will use to battle the storms' aftermath. Specifically, the plan divides the village into four plowing zones based on priority, total mileage, and travel time. The zones are then organized by four priority levels.

The priority levels are defined as follows:

Priority I: These streets, which generally carry heavier traffic in and out of the community, are assigned to the highest priority classification. In addition, the Priority I class includes streets with key community locations such as schools, municipal complexes, the Village Square, etc.

Priority II: This classification includes all Priority I and main collector roads. Main collector roads are roads intersecting with

main roads or State or County Trunk Highways. These are generally internal roads within subdivisions and are used to connect low use roads within the Village street system.

Priority III: This classification includes all roads that are not included in Priority I and Priority II roads. These roads are low use roads, roads that have low traffic, dead end roads and cul-de-sacs.

Priority IV: This classification includes the entire area at the East Troy Municipal Airport.

With the new plan in place, the DPW can articulate to concerned residents the method to their plowing process, and ease fears that plowing is not being completed in an orderly fashion.

“[The DPW received] a few complaints about how things are being plowed and it was difficult to explain to them without it being written down,” said Miller.

See the Village of East Troy's Plowing and Salting Guidelines for a complete listing of zones, including the individual roads shown in order of priority.

Residents now have 48 hours to remove snow

On a similar track, the board approved changing the village's snow removal ordinance from 24 hours to 48 hours.

The board made it clear that it wants residents to have

enough time to remove the snow.

“You've got to give residents the time to get there and clean it up,” said Trustee Dusty Stanford.

The change was also made, because the DPW does not have the staffing to fulfill its own duty to move in and clear snow that was not shoveled by residents in a timely manner.

“We don't think it's right to enforce [the 24 hours requirement for] residents, when we can't meet our own obligation,” said Miller.

Last year's record breaking snow storms also factored into the decision.

“After last year, I think it's a really good idea [to extend the time requirement], the snow is coming fast and furious,” said board member Mary Hubbard Nugent.

Failure to remove snow from sidewalks within 48 hours will result in a minimum fee of \$25.

Thank you to all my family & friends for all the cards & prayers you sent me.

It really helps to know that people care.

Ruth Ann Billings